# PMs AND ACQUISITION COMMANDERS OF THE YEAR HONORED

# Heather J. Kohler

### Introduction

Awards recognizing outstanding achievements of the Army's project and product managers (PMs) of the year and two acquisition commanders (ACs) of the year were presented Aug. 7, 2001, at the annual Army Acquisition Workshop in Atlanta, GA. The awards were presented by LTG Paul J. Kern, then Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Director of the Army Acquisition Corps (now with his fourth star and Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command).

# Project Manager Of The Year

COL Patrick J. O'Reilly, Project Manager, Theater High Altitude Area Defense (PM, THAAD), received the Project Manager of the Year Award for FY00. He was cited for managing activities and leading the THAAD Program through the successful Milestone II Defense Acquisition Board Review in June 2000. Within 5 weeks. the \$3.8 billion THAAD engineering and manufacturing design contract was signed. O'Reilly developed the innovative contract award fee structure, providing the contractor with incentives for early and successful flight tests and the government with a means to recover the costs of unsuccessful flights. O'Reilly also implemented numerous costreduction initiatives, avoiding or saving more than \$10 billion

throughout the program's life cycle. One initiative involved O'Reilly and his team partnering with the automotive racing industry to incorporate revolutionary pit-stop technologies into the THAAD design. This effort reduces maintenance diagnostics and repair times from hours to seconds, resulting in dramatically reduced maintenance costs.

# **Product Manager Of The Year**

LTC Edward L. Mullin, Product Manager, PATRIOT Advanced Capability-3 (PM, PAC-3) Missile Program, received the Product Manager of the Year Award for FY00. Under Mullin's leadership, the PAC-3 Program achieved an unprecedented seven consecutive hit-to-kill intercepts in developmental testing without a single failure—a 100-percent success rate. These hit-to-kill intercepts, often compared to "hitting a bullet with a bullet," were conducted against threat-representative theater ballistic missile and cruise missile targets. Mullin was also cited for spearheading a three-pronged effort to reduce the average unit procurement cost of the PAC-3 missile by as much as 40 percent, saving the government \$1.5 billion in procurement costs. Through his innovative and rigorous ground test program involving a combination of digital simulations and hardware-in-the-loop testing at the system component level, Mullin set the standard for simulation-based acquisition and significantly reduced

the number of live flight tests required and, consequently, overall program costs.

### **ACs Of The Year**

COL William N. Phillips and LTC George P. Slagle were each recipients of an Acquisition Commander of the Year Award for FY00.

Phillips was recognized for his achievements as Commander, Defense Contract Management (DCM)-San Francisco, responsible for managing more than 5,000 contracts valued at more than \$21 billion and involving more than 800 contractors. Phillips was cited for demonstrating significant fiscal achievements by implementing a streamlined process to track canceling funds. As a result, his command saved \$38.1 million during the fiscal year—all "hard dollars" returned to the Services. Because of Phillips' outstanding leadership, DCM-San Francisco was transformed from one of the poorest commands to one of the best in the agency. By initiating sweeping reforms in organization, process control, and managerial oversight, Phillips overhauled his command. He did this while while maintaining and significantly improving mission accomplishment and support to the customer. This enabled DCM-San Francisco to be commonly used as a benchmark by other commands to assess their performance.

Shown on the left in each photo is LTG Paul J. Kern, then Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Director of the Army Acquisition Corps (now with his fourth star and Commanding General of the Army Materiel Command).



COL Patrick J. O'Reilly, PM, THAAD, accepts the Project Manager Of The Year Award.



LTC Edward L. Mullin, PM, PAC-3, accepts the Product Manager Of The Year Award.



COL William N. Phillips, Commander, DCM-San Francisco, receives an Acquisition Commander Of The Year Award.

Slagle was recognized for his contributions as the Acquisition Commander, National Training Center (NTC). He is responsible for the surveillance and contract management of 1,200 contractor employees for NTC's 10-year base operations contract; the \$182 million logistics support contract; and the administration of more than \$100 million in supply, service, and construction contracts. Slagle was instrumental in supporting the NTC command group's \$256 million budgetary expenditures for FY00. Slagle was cited for successfully transitioning



LTC George P. Slagle, AC, National Training Center, receives an Acquisition Commander Of The Year Award.

the Directorate of Contracting into the newest U.S. Army Forces Command acquisition command structure. His adept reorganization and empowerment of his acquisition workforce resulted in his command's ability to lead and support NTC's customers.

## **Charter Presentations**

At the conclusion of the awards presentation, Kern presented a Deputy for Systems Acquisition (DSA) Charter to COL(P) Paul S. Izzo, DSA, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command.



COL(P) Paul S. Izzo, DSA, U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, receives a Deputy for Systems Acquisition Charter.

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